

People of the Bible

Luke

The materials found in Scripture for a life of Luke are very scanty. Luke was a Greek Gentile. Antioch (of Syria) and Philippi are among the places suggested as his hometown. Luke was well educated in Greek culture and a physician ("dear friend Luke, the doctor," Col. 4:14) by profession. He is believed to have died a martyr at the age of 84, although accounts of the events do vary.

Luke was a disciple of the apostle Paul and later followed Paul until his (Paul's) martyrdom. (2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24) Luke excludes himself from those who were eyewitnesses to Jesus' ministry. He, however repeatedly uses the word "we" in describing the Pauline missions in *Acts of the Apostles*, indicating that he was personally there at those times. (Acts 16:10–17; 20:5–15; 21:1–18; 27:1–28:16)

Luke wrote the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. They are companion volumes. The language and structure of these two books indicate that both were written by the same person. His authorship is supported by the uniform testimony of early Christian writings (e.g., the Muratorian Canon, A.D. 170, and the works of Irenaeus, c. 180). Luke is the only writer of the NT who can clearly be identified as not being Jewish.